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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

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## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 1997



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- Developed Revised Loan Policy on the Acceleration of Freeway Projects by Member Jurisdictions

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# Organization Structure and Operational Improvements

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An open house was held in August to show our new facilities to members and professional associates.

- **MOVED OFFICE**

Moved the MAG Transportation and Planning and MAG Administration offices to a new location. The move included finding a new location, negotiating a lease, planning the physical layout, ordering furniture, leasing copy equipment, leasing vehicles and installing a telephone/computer system. This was accomplished from February to July, 1997.

- **CREATED REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING ROOM**

Created a new meeting facility which includes a state of the art computer/video projection system, updated microphones, new technology lighting and speaker time limit system. Furniture for the meeting room uses custom tables and seating from vendors on the State procurement list, which provides flexibility for different size and shape configurations.

- **STREAMLINED MEETINGS**

Worked with staff to make more focused presentations. New computer video technology assisted in this effort. Purchased an electronic timer with a display for speakers to help facilitate timely presentations.



Executive Director's Reports utilize the new electronic presentation facilities in the Saguaro meeting room.

- **PROVIDED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

Instituted an Executive Director's Report at the beginning of the Management Committee and Regional Council meetings. The purpose of the report is to update members regarding activities of the organization and to provide advance information regarding items that will appear on future agendas. The report summarizes organizational activities and provides continuity for the interrelatedness of separate agenda items.

- **CONSOLIDATED STAFF**

At the direction of the Regional Council Executive Committee, the staff that previously existed in three organizations (League, Maricopa County and MAG) was combined into one staff. This included reorganizing the staff support services, and negotiating personnel related issues, such as vacation, sick leave, pension program, deferred compensation program, health and dental programs and work schedule.

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# Organization Structure and Operational Improvements

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Staff in front of the MAG office

- **HIRED NEW STAFF**

Hired new staff (approximately 20 individuals). These vacancies were due to existing vacancies being unfilled, staff openings that occurred, and a small number of new positions created to address significant deficiencies. Extensive use of the internet was employed along with traditional advertising to find the best employees to fill vacancies.

- **MET WITH EACH STAFF MEMBER INDIVIDUALLY**

The Executive Director reviewed documents on the backgrounds and interests provided by each staff member and met with each individually. This process provided an opportunity to become acquainted with each staff member's goals and interests and to encourage their professional development.

- **ESTABLISHED MONTHLY STAFF AND MANAGERS' MEETINGS**

Full staff meetings and meetings of the managers, program managers and supervisors are both held monthly. These meetings enhance communication among all employees, help to integrate related staff efforts and to address issues as they arise.



Improved office procedures and enhanced services

- **ENHANCED OFFICE SERVICES**

Mail/copy center and information processing units successfully adapted to the increased workload resulting from the shift from County facilities.

- **DEVELOPED OFFICE OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Developed and implemented a broad array of standard operating and office procedures ranging from formalizing word processing and copy center work requests to creating an emergency response team made up of MAG staff.

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# Organization Structure and Operational Improvements

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Upgraded computers enhance services provided by staff

- **UPGRADED COMPUTERS**

With the move to new premises, a new computer network had to be installed. At the same time, many of the staff, especially the modeling staff, had their computers upgraded in order to facilitate their modeling efforts. Both PCs and Unix machines were upgraded to enhance the services provided by staff.

- **DEVELOPED A POLICY ON TELECOMMUTING**

MAG is in the process of creating a policy to establish the Maricopa Association of Governments program on telecommuting. This program will help employees work effectively at home and provide employees with an awareness of employee and MAG obligations. This will help the agency assume an appropriate leadership role in promoting this method of reducing vehicle miles traveled.

- **ESTABLISHED PERSONNEL POLICIES**

Established personnel policies for the organization which meet the needs, image and direction of MAG. Among the most noteworthy are modifications to the vacation policy allowing employees to begin taking accrued vacation after 6 months of service and increasing the accrual rate from 18 to 20 days annually for employees with 10 or more years of service. Sick leave accrual was increased from 6 to 8 hours monthly allowing employees who accrue more than 192 hours to use those hours to cover medical expenses, pay for health club memberships or buy up to 40 hours of additional vacation time. A MAG personnel procedures manual is nearly complete. These policies provide a package of benefits consistent with a majority of our member agencies.

- **IMPLEMENTED COMPENSATION AND CLASSIFICATION PLAN**

Developed and implemented the organization's first compensation and classification plan. MAG had encountered large turnover in many positions due to inequities in the compensation of employees and the awkwardness of having employees in three organizations. To develop these plans, compensation/classification specialists from MAG member agencies (Phoenix and Glendale) were utilized. Best practices locally and nationally were analyzed. Compensation was compared both locally and with peer organizations nationally.

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## Organization Structure and Operational Improvements

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Public transit is widely used by  
MAG employees

- **ESTABLISHED TRANSIT USAGE PROGRAM**

Implemented a transit usage program as part of the lease negotiation with the Regional Public Transportation Authority. This provides MAG employees with free transit privileges and has resulted in increasing transit usage from almost none to close to half of the employees.

- **INCREASED UNITED WAY PARTICIPATION**

Formally participated in the United Way Campaign for the first time. The initial rate of participation was very successful at 41%, and with 13 employees making regular donations via payroll deduction.

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# Fiscal Management

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- **ENTIRELY REVAMPED FISCAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

In July 1997, a Fiscal Services Manager was hired to establish an internal Fiscal Services unit. Prior to this time, MAG's fiscal management was performed by a consultant. The development of an internal Fiscal Services staff allows for more timely and accurate financial reporting, the strengthening of internal controls, and increased accountability that are typically not possible with an external consultant.

- **REESTABLISHED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION RATE**

The Fiscal Services staff successfully reestablished MAG's unemployment compensation rate at .10%, the lowest possible rate in the State of Arizona.



- **INITIATED RECONCILIATION OF GRANT REVENUES WITH ADOT**

In 1997, staff began to address long-standing grant reconciliation issues in partnership with the ADOT fiscal staff. Over the last few years, MAG's growth along with changes in personnel at ADOT, caused variances between MAG and ADOT's grant records. It is anticipated that this reconciliation will be completed within the next two months. To minimize the likelihood of this problem reoccurring, the Fiscal Services staff has proposed a quarterly reconciliation of the grant information with the ADOT staff. This exercise will ultimately allow both MAG and ADOT to improve financial reporting.

- **SELECTED A NEW AUDIT FIRM**

In July, a request for proposal (RFP) for audit services was developed and issued to "Big 6" international accounting firms and to regional public accounting firms. The RFP generated proposals from two "Big 6" firms. After an extensive review of qualifications, Deloitte & Touche LLP was recommended to the Regional Council for appointment as MAG's auditor.

- **CONVERTED PAYROLL PROCESSING**

At the end of 1997, staff successfully completed the conversion of payroll processors. The change in processors will result in reduced payroll processing costs, increased service and efficiencies.

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# Fiscal Management

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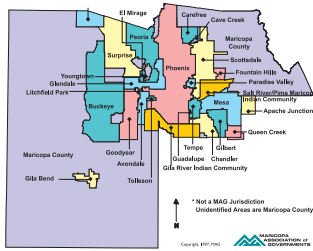
UPWP Document

- **ENHANCED THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET FORMAT**

Efforts were initiated in 1997 to revise the format of the *1999 Unified Planning Work Program* (UPWP) and agency budget. The overall goal in revising the format of the UPWP is to make the document clearer and more concise for the reader. To achieve this objective, the format will focus on converting the UPWP into a program-oriented budget. Each major program will show the applicable expenditures by task and type of expenditure, full-time employees by task, consultants, and the related funding sources. A significant addition will be the inclusion of outcome measures designed to assess the effectiveness of the task in the UPWP.



# Communications and Agency Outreach



MAG Member Agencies in Maricopa County

- **OUTREACH TO MEMBER AGENCIES**

The Executive Director has met with each individual mayor, County Board Chairman and some city councils to discuss MAG's activities and to determine how the organization can be of benefit to its members.

- **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RETREAT**

A Management Committee retreat was conducted to discuss MAG's activities and to identify areas on which member agencies wish to focus regional attention.

- **DEVELOPED REGIONAL COUNCIL AWARDS PROGRAM**

The MAG Regional Council will hold its first annual Maricopa Association of Governments Awards Evening in conjunction with the Regional Council Annual Meeting on June 24, 1998. Initial suggestions for awards include an individual award for Regional Excellence, agency and corporate awards for Regional Project and Public-Private Partnership, and other Distinguished Service Award(s). The panel for these awards will include representatives of the business community, universities and local government elected officials and managers.

- **DEVELOPED TITLE VI INFORMATION AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

Drafted a Title VI Information and Reporting Program to further meet the needs of minority and low income populations. The Title VI Program outlines the efforts undertaken by MAG to analyze the equity of its planning and programming processes on all segments of the population. Under federal law, neither the benefits nor the impacts of a plan or program should have a disproportionate impact on any particular group.



Targeted advertising such as the notice in Spanish above is used to improve public participation

- **ENHANCED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Enhanced the public participation processes for all planning programs to afford the opportunity for input and comment to as many people as possible. Expanded mail lists, advertisements, locations and hours for hearings and meetings resulted in outreach to populations which have not traditionally participated in public meetings. Broadcast on public access television channels and use of a 24-hour telephone line facilitated broader access to nontraditional publics.

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## Communications and Agency Outreach

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Web Site Address:  
[www.mag.maricopa.gov](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov)

- **REVISED MAG WEB SITE**

The MAG web site has been completely revised to make it more comprehensive and easy to use. The site now includes Regional Council and Management Committee agendas and minutes, and will be expanded to include other committees as well. Also included on the site are current activities, membership names and addresses, publications and links to MAG member agencies and other relevant parties. The site also provides access to the MAG newsletter, *MAGAZine*.

- **PARTNERED WITH ADOT**

Initiated a partnering process with the Arizona Department of Transportation through a day-long meeting of key management personnel from both agencies. This facilitated meeting included developing an “issues map” which led to important questions that needed to be addressed by both organizations. Communication was enhanced and future action is planned to develop a better process for working with ADOT in developing priorities for the non-sales tax funding.

- **INITIATED PARTNERING WITH ADEQ**

Initiated a partnering session with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to better define roles and responsibilities between the respective agencies. The initial session is being planned for February 1998 and includes the development of an issues map and a facilitated discussion.



MAGAZine Quarterly Newsletter

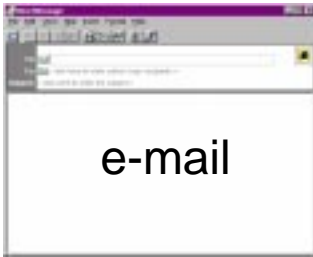
- **REDESIGNED NEWSLETTER**

The Summer, 1997 issue of the MAG newsletter, *MAGAZine*, was redesigned to provide a new eight-page format with a focus on many of the activities performed at MAG. The newsletter provides a forum for the organization to identify some of the many positive contributions made to the region as well as discuss ongoing efforts and opportunities for public input.

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## Communications and Agency Outreach

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E-mail policies established

- **ESTABLISHED POLICY ON E-MAIL USE**

Established a policy on the use of electronic systems and tools to describe the access, disclosure and retention of computer information and the authorized use of information systems, including e-mail and Internet access. The purpose of the policy is to establish the proper use of electronic equipment, systems and/or tools provided to its employees.

- **INITIATED DEVELOPMENT OF MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS INFORMATION CENTER**

Initiated development of the Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center, MAGIC, to disseminate MAG information throughout the region, promote its existence and encourage its use. A program will be developed to facilitate the awareness of member agencies, their consultants, local libraries, school districts and others of the wealth of information housed at MAG. The first task has been the consolidation of the publications, data and GIS coverages produced by MAG.



- **ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EDAC) OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS (NARC)**

The Executive Director has been elected to the Executive Directors' Advisory Committee for the National Association of Regional Councils. This professional organization represents the Regional Councils around the nation. The EDAC advises NARC on policies, procedures, professional development opportunities and common issues. The Executive Director is serving on the Ethics Committee, which will revise the original ethics code to address diversity, the environment and the public/private partnership.

- **JOINED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

MAG has become a member of the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce. This membership will promote interaction with business, professional and governmental organizations which are interested in and impacted by MAG's activities. The Transportation and Public Affairs Committees and Task Forces are of special relevance.

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## Communications and Agency Outreach

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- **SERVED ON AMPO AWARDS COMMITTEE**

The Executive Director was selected to participate on the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) awards committee, which evaluated submittals from metropolitan planning organizations on a national basis for awards in various categories.

- **APPOINTED TO THE CENSUS 2000 ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Executive Director was appointed to the Census 2000 Advisory Committee representing the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). This committee was established to advise the Secretary of the Department of Commerce on Census 2000 issues. Through the Director's participation on the committee, as a representative of local governments, MAG has a unique opportunity to provide direct input to high level Census Bureau officials on Census 2000 issues of importance to its member agencies.



- **PARTICIPATED IN SOUTHWEST PASSAGE PROJECT**

The Executive Director represented MAG on a Southwest Passage Project Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Southwest Passage Project is to facilitate the intermodal movement of people and goods along a corridor extending from Los Angeles to Houston. The major strategy for accomplishing the project purpose was to secure funds to support planning and capital improvement projects. The corridor passes through this region and encompasses major aviation, rail, highway and pipeline facilities. Representatives of local governments, states and Councils of Governments/Metropolitan Planning Organizations from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas served on the Committee.

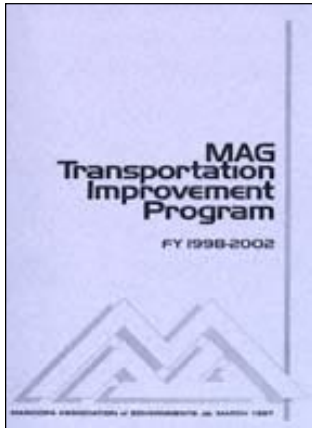
- **PARTICIPATED ON PHOENIX-TUCSON HIGH SPEED RAIL TASK FORCE AND STEERING COMMITTEE**

The Executive Director represented MAG on the Phoenix-Tucson High Speed Rail Study sponsored by the Arizona Department of Transportation. The Director's participation on the committee provided an opportunity for MAG to have input into a study process that has potential impact on local governments in this region, and to raise issues of concern to MAG member agencies.

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## Program Accomplishments

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MAG 1997 TIP Update

- **DEVELOPED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
Transportation staff developed and published the *FY 1998-2002 MAG Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP). The TIP contains more than 1100 projects and totals over \$2.6 billion. The draft TIP was approved for a conformity analysis in March 1997 and the final TIP was approved in October 1997. Federal approval of the conformity analysis and the Governor's approval of the TIP were also received in December 1997.
- **OBLIGATED MAG FEDERAL FUNDS**  
MAG had \$46.68 million in obligation authority (OA) available for this year and received an additional \$1.6 million in redistributed OA. After managing the programming, development and obligation of MAG federally funded projects, MAG ended the year having obligated all of the funds available. All of MAG's allocation of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds were obligated. \$2.235 million in projects were carried forward to the next year. Transit and Transportation Demand Management projects received almost \$10 million, MAG freeway projects received \$32.6 million, and other projects totaled \$5.7 million.
- **DEVELOPED POLICIES FOR ELECTRONIC HIGHWAY**  
Participated with local government telecommunication specialists on a MAG committee to better understand emerging technology issues that impact local governments. As an example, the Model Telecommunications Ordinance was developed in January 1997 and several conferences were held throughout the region.
- **DEVELOPED PROCESS FOR INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS**  
Made a substantial commitment to Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) through designating a staff member with ITS as his principal responsibility. Initiated a regional process to develop and implement ITS projects for the MAG TIP. Also began integration of the existing ITS Model Deployment Initiative, named AzTech, into the long term regional transportation planning and program process.





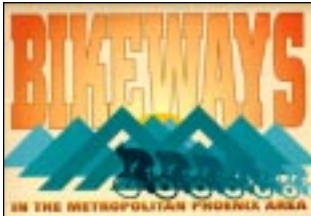
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## Program Accomplishments

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- **UPDATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS REPORT**

Produced the annual update of the *Transportation Management Systems* report, accepted by Regional Council in December 1997. The update includes both new data and several new Title VI maps showing socioeconomic changes indicated by 1995 special census data.



Bicycle Map

- **PUBLISHED BICYCLE MAP**

Published the 1997 edition of *Bikeways in the Metropolitan Phoenix Area* in May 1997. Over 50,000 full color maps were distributed to MAG jurisdictions and approximately 7,000 more are available at MAG, for use as necessary.

- **ADOPTED POPULATION UPDATES AND PROJECTIONS OF POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS AND EMPLOYMENT**

MAG staff developed and the Regional Council adopted 1997 updates of population by municipality and water service area, and 2000-2020 subregional projections of population, households and employment. The *Municipality Updates* are used to allocate \$23 million of lottery funds and determine expenditure limitations where appropriate. *Water Service Area Updates* are used by the Department of Water Resources to monitor compliance with municipal per capita water use targets. The subregional projections were developed using state-of-the-art spatial analysis and subarea allocation models. The employment projections were prepared from an existing employment database compiled by MAG with more than 880,000 employees. All draft projections were reviewed by MAG member agencies and revised based on input received. The projections were used as input into the MAG transportation and air quality models.



- **APPROVED MAG REGIONAL AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STUDY**

The MAG Regional Council approved the *Regional Aviation System Plan Implementation Study*. The purpose of this study is to facilitate the implementation of recommendations and policies that were included in the *Regional Aviation System Plan* (RASP) adopted by the Regional Council in December 1993. Innovative features that resulted from this study during the past year included: the preparation of a 20-year *Consolidated Airport Capital Improvement*

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## Program Accomplishments

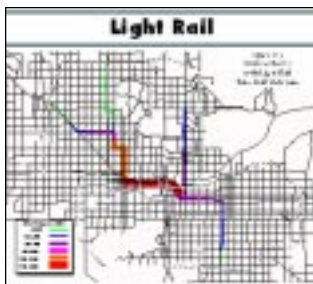
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*Program* (CACIP), which includes federal, state, regional and local airport projects; the development of an electronic airport database to enable MAG to share airport data more easily with member agencies and the public; an examination of multimodal access to airports; and superimposing noise contours over existing and future land use coverages to help monitor land use compatibility around airports.



- **COMPLETED 1997 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**  
The *MAG Long Range Transportation Plan Summary and 1997 Update* was developed and approved by the Regional Council in March 1997. New items in the 1997 update included an extended planning horizon from 2015 to 2017, updated freeway priorities which will complete the MAG freeway system by 2014, and a fixed guideway starter corridor.

- **COMPLETING GRAND AVENUE CONCEPT STUDY**  
Completion of the *Grand Avenue Concept Study* is only weeks away. The study was initiated approximately one year ago to examine a wide range of road options to address existing and future traffic problems along Grand Avenue, as well as to address transit and land use considerations. From consideration of these options the study has progressed with technical analysis and public involvement to arrive at a narrowed list of three options.



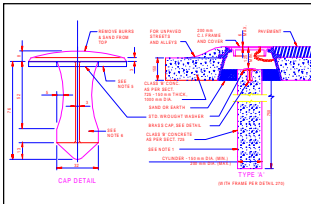
Sample slide from the fixed guideway peer review presentation

- **CONTINUED WORK ON FIXED GUIDEWAY SYSTEM STUDY AND RELATED MAJOR INVESTMENT STUDIES**  
Work has continued throughout the year on a fixed guideway system study along with extensive involvement in *Major Investment Studies* (MIS) to identify high capacity corridors in the region which might be served by fixed guideway. In January of 1997, the Regional Council approved the inclusion in the *Long Range Transportation Plan* of a fixed guideway starter corridor in the central portion of the highest travel demand corridor in the region. The starter corridor is strategically located to serve as the spine for the addition of any other fixed guideway corridors that are to be determined by the system study and the major investment studies (MIS) which are occurring at the corridor and subarea level.

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## Program Accomplishments

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Sample Metric Detail Drawing

- **PRODUCED SPECIFICATIONS AND DETAILS**

*1997 Revisions to the MAG Uniform Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction* were produced and are available for purchase. Staff expects to sell more than 1000 copies. These specifications are now available in a metric version.

- **CONTRACTED FOR SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION NEEDS STUDY**

*The Special Transportation Needs Study* was begun in October of 1997. This study, which will take approximately one year, will develop a plan to meet the transportation needs of low income workers and people with functional limitations that normally prevent them from driving or taking the bus. The focus of the study is on welfare recipients and low income workers, as well as people who are elderly or who have disabilities.



- **RECEIVED CLEAN CITIES DESIGNATION**

The Maricopa Association of Governments received a Federal Clean Cities designation by the U.S. Department of Energy on October 8, 1997. The designation recognizes the work this region has done to introduce alternative fuels in order to clean its air and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuel. The MAG Clean Cities Coalition is one of the largest in the nation, and includes private and public sector fleets.

- **RECOMMENDED ENHANCEMENT FUNDS**

This year the MAG region led the State in the receipt of ISTEA Enhancement Funds, receiving \$2,177,703 of a total of \$6 million available statewide. Including the latest round, \$6,228,032 in Enhancement Funds has been received by this region for projects including the Rio Salado, bike paths and lanes, historic preservation, pedestrian facilities, public art, and archaeological studies and preservation.



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## Program Accomplishments

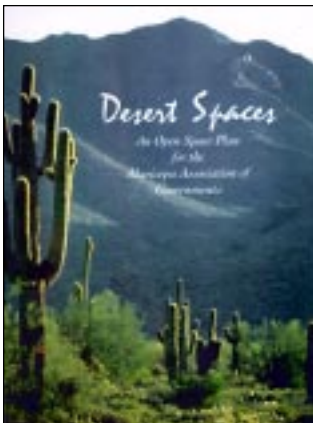
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- **SPONSORED PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY ROAD SHOW**  
The Pedestrian Working Group sponsored, with ADOT and FHWA, the Walking Into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Road Show at the Pueblo Grande Museum. The event was attended by over 70 people, and resulted in the *Design Concepts for the Papago Trail* report. The report is being used by the Papago Salado Association for funding purposes.

- **PROVIDED PEDESTRIAN DESIGN ASSISTANCE**

Five projects have received Pedestrian Area Design Assistance. The two Pedestrian Area Design Assistance projects initiated in 1995/96 with \$40,000 seed money have leveraged over \$1.5 million in other funds for construction. In 1997/98 three additional design assistance projects were initiated.



Residents favor funding for open space preservation

- **CONDUCTED OPEN SPACE COMMUNITY SURVEY**

Conducted a statistically significant survey of residents attitudes towards funding the acquisition of open space identified in *MAG Desert Spaces Plan*. The results of the survey demonstrated 68% of all Maricopa region residents favor funding the *Desert Spaces Plan* at a level of \$500 million.

- **PARTICIPATED IN ENHANCED NOTIFICATION PROCESS**

Reviewed and provided comments to member jurisdictions on approximately fifteen general plans, general plan amendments and rezoning requests as part of the enhanced notification process.

- **BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR A REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS**

Presented the Blue Ribbon Committee recommendation for a Regional Planning Process which was unanimously adopted by the Regional Council in February 1997. The recommendation was based on two years of work by a 29 member citizen committee which studied 15 other regional planning processes and visited six regions to learn how they conducted their regional planning activities.

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## Program Accomplishments

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A Regional Partnership for the Future

- **INITIATED REGION 2025 VISION PROCESS**

Supported the Regional Council appointment of the Region 2025 Vision Committee and initiated the Region 2025 Vision Process. The 79 member citizen committee is the first of its kind in this region, representing over fifty different regional interests. A reception for the committee was held on December 3, 1997, and an organizational meeting was held on January 8, 1998.

- **PROVIDED TRAVEL DEMAND FORECASTS**

Supplied travel demand information to 13 MAG member agencies for 42 studies during 1997. Information was provided on freeway design, impacts of new development, and transit demand. In addition, a number of improvements were made to the travel demand forecasting model including mode split enhancements and traffic assignment methodology improvements.



A presentation to the Regional Council provided updated information on air quality measures.

- **ADOPTED SUGGESTED LIST OF MEASURES FOR PARTICULATE MATTER AND CARBON MONOXIDE**

Developed the *Suggested List of Measures For Particulate Matter and Carbon Monoxide* which were approved by the Regional Council on January 29, 1997. Several more measures were approved on March 26, 1997. The suggested list includes 67 new or strengthened control measures that may be considered to meet the *Serious Area Plan* requirements for carbon monoxide and particulate matter. For each measure, there is a description detailing the suggested implementing entity, costs, basis for consideration, and benefits.

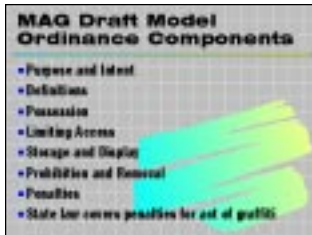
- **COMPLETED THE DRAFT SERIOUS AREA PARTICULATE PLAN FOR PM-10 AND REGIONAL PM-10 EMISSION INVENTORY**

Completed a *Draft Serious Area Particulate Plan for PM-10* in October 1997. The draft plan contains committed measures from the State, County and local governments, air quality modeling results, and support and technical analysis. The Serious Area Committed Control Measures and Support Technical Analysis portion of the plan were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency on December 10, 1997.

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## Program Accomplishments

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Graffiti recommendations

- **APPROVED GRAFFITI RECOMMENDATIONS**

At the request of elected officials on the MAG Youth Policy Advisory Committee, the Graffiti Working Group produced a model graffiti ordinance and recommendations. The Regional Council approved the recommendations, which have been distributed to the member agencies for their consideration.

- **COMPLETED CONFORMITY ANALYSIS**

The conformity analysis was completed by MAG staff in September 1997 and approved by the Regional Council on October 29, 1997, after a public hearing which was held on October 14, 1997. The Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration made a joint finding of conformity for the *MAG 1998-2002 Transportation Improvement Program* and *MAG Long Range Transportation Plan Summary and 1997 Update* in November. Under Federal regulations, transportation projects cannot be approved unless they are from a conforming regional transportation plan and improvement program.

- **COMPLETED DRAFT TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT FOR THE SERIOUS AREA CARBON MONOXIDE PLAN**

In August, completed the *Draft Technical Support Document for the Serious Area Carbon Monoxide Plan*. This document summarizes emission estimates and modeling analysis; evaluates suggested and committed control measures; and describes the results of the attainment demonstration. The document also includes a forecast of vehicle miles traveled, and specific annual emission reductions necessary to attain the standard.



Welfare reform presentation

- **DEVELOPED AND SUBMITTED WELFARE REFORM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Thirteen MAG member agencies were included in a legislative pilot to privatize the delivery of welfare services. The affected cities developed recommendations concerning the elements that should be considered in the selection of a private vendor to deliver the cash assistance program. These recommendations were accepted by the Arizona Works Procurement Board, and contributed to the Board's request that the Legislature and the Governor refine the program

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## Program Accomplishments

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further before implementation. Testimony before the Legislature contributed to an allocation of \$2 million for transportation for cash assistance recipients.



- **INCREASED ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**

Negotiated a change in the formula for distribution of federal Social Services Block Grant funds within Arizona. The revised formula better reflects the increases in population and poverty. As a result, the MAG region will realize an annual increase in the funds it receives to target local human services problems. Funding recommendations for 1997/1998 and 1998/1999 were developed by the elected officials of the MAG Human Services Committee and approved by the Regional Council.

- **RECOMMENDED FUNDING FOR SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES**

Reviewed and recommended funding for agencies transporting elderly and persons with disabilities. This annual process resulted in awards to seven agencies to receive federal capital assistance for the purchase of vehicles to assist in transporting elderly persons and those with physical and mental disabilities. The Regional Council approved the recommendations for transmittal to the Arizona Department of Transportation.

- **COMPLETED UPDATE OF MAG HOMELESS PLAN**

At the request of the MAG Regional Council, the Homeless Working Group updated the *1991 Regional Homeless Plan*. This plan is used as a guide in identifying needs and service gaps for both public and private funders.

- **DEVELOPED REVISED LOAN POLICY ON THE ACCELERATION OF FREEWAY PROJECTS BY MEMBER JURISDICTIONS**

The revised loan policy on acceleration of freeway projects enabled the acceleration of freeway segments for the cities of Chandler, Mesa and Scottsdale. This was approved by the Regional Council and has been implemented by ADOT.